TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

4311 South 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas 76502
PO Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503
(254) 773-2250

http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us

August 2011

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

REX ISOM, Executive Director

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, September 21, 2011** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, September 22, 2011** in Austin. More information is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The deadline for 4th Quarter and Supplemental Matching Fund claims is August 31st.
- The deadline for annual Technical Assistance Performance Reports is August 31st.
- Financial Statement / Audit Notification Forms are due September 1st.
- The deadline for Fiscal Year 2011 Regular and Supplemental Technical Assistance claims is September 30th.

- The deadline for Fiscal Year 2011 Director Mileage and Per Diem claims is September 30th.
- The deadline for return of unused Director Mileage and Per Diem advance payment for Fiscal Year 2011 is September 30th.
- Advance payments for Fiscal Year 2012 Director Mileage and Per Diem will be made October 1st.
- Supplemental Director Mileage and Per Diem, Matching Fund, and Technical Assistance claims for Fiscal Year 2011 will be paid in mid October.

For more accounting and budgeting information, contact Kenny Zajicek at (254) 773-2250 or zajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Natural Resource Specialist- Nacogdoches
- Engineering Technician- Dublin

For additional information on posted vacancies or to download an application, visit https://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/employment

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

The TSSWCB Special Projects department provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as publishing the agency's Semi-Annual Report and coordinating rule-making functions.

Annual State Meeting of Texas SWCD Directors

The 71st Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 24-26, 2011, in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Hotel and Resort. For reservations call (210) 647-1234 or (800) 233-1234. Additional reservations may be made with:

- Hilton San Antonio/Hill Country Hotel and Spa by calling 1 (800) Hiltons, or by calling them directly at (210) 767-5900. Please use the group code: TSSWCB
- Holiday Inn Northwest/Sea World Area by calling 1 (800) Holiday or (210) 520-2508, or by going to their website, www.holidayinn.com/sanantonionw. Please use the group code of TSS
- For registration information, please visit our Website at: http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/swcds/annualmeeting

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

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Conservation News

Conservation News is a collection of readily available current news and information regarding natural resource issues. TSSWCB periodically distributes Conservation News via email to those interested. To subscribe, send an email to conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.state.tx.us. Conservation News is also available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/news.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency proposes to implement a new program authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) in the State of Texas. The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides grants to State and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish

and wildlife habitat on their land. The VPA-HIP is administered by the State or tribal government that receives the grant funds.

The State of Texas, through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), proposes to use VPA-HIP grant funds to expand its existing public access programs to provide the public with more opportunities to hunt, fish, watch wildlife, enjoy other recreation, and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. TPWD works closely with landowners who voluntarily participate in three existing private-land access programs: Walk-In Hunts (WIH), Private Lands Drawn Hunts (PLDH) and Waterway Access Easement (WAE). These programs provide private landowners with habitat improvements, financial incentives and technical assistance in exchange for public access to their lands and adjoining public waters. To date these programs have opened more than 80,000 acres of private land to the public in Texas. These successful programs also increase awareness about the importance of private lands for individuals who hunt, fish, and enjoy wildlife-related recreation and help motivate landowners to conserve wildlife species.

Seminar to Assist Producers with Drought Management

Five Oklahoma and Texas organizations will collaborate on an event to help farmers and ranchers effectively manage their resources through the ongoing drought.

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Fannin County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Fannin County SWCD, Fannin County and Grayson County AgriLife Extension Service and Bois d' Arc Cowboy Church will host the Agricultural Management During Drought Seminar from 12 to 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, at the Bois d' Arc Cowboy Church, located at 3375 South Highway 121, Bonham, Texas.

"This drought is shaping up to be a once-in-a-lifetime event," said Hugh Aljoe, consultation program manager. "We want our producers to have quality information on as many topics as possible so they can make informed decisions and successfully make it through this drought."

The seminar will begin with a free lunch (provided by Fannin County SWCD), followed by presentations by the Fannin County NRCS district conservationist and Noble Foundation agricultural consultants. The presenters are as follows:

- Dan Childs, Noble Foundation economic consultant, will review the tax consequences of livestock sales during drought.
- Chuck Coffey, Noble Foundation pasture and range consultant, will discuss fall management options for stressed pastures, specifically looking at the current drought cycle, reserve herd days, over-seeding and pasture recovery.
- Randy Moore, NRCS district conservationist, will review the potential of renovating ponds during this drought period.
- Steven Smith, Noble Foundation wildlife and fisheries consultant, will discuss how drought will affect wildlife food supply, especially the impact on white-tailed deer.
- Job Springer, Noble Foundation economic consultant, will preview the upcoming market outlook, including a look at producers' inevitable decision to either winter cows or sell their herd, as well as the potential for repurchasing cattle in the spring.
- Clay Wright, Noble Foundation livestock consultant, will describe drought management steps for cow-calf producers, including tips for culling, feeding alternatives and maintaining body condition scores and water considerations.

The Agricultural Management During Drought Seminar is offered at no cost, but advanced registration is requested. To register, please call Fannin County NRCS at (903) 583-9513 ext. 3**.**

Area Associations of SWCD Meetings

The Panhandle Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (PASWCDs) met Tuesday,

August 16, 2011, in Wellington at the historic, renovated Ritz Theatre.

During the business session speakers from the TSSWCB, Association of Texas SWCDs, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) provided an update to SWCD Directors on state and national soil and water conservation programs and issues.

The South Plains Association of Soil and water Conservation Districts (SPASWCDs) met August 17, 2011, in Lubbock. The featured program speaker was Mark Schwirtz, President and General Manager of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Schwirtz talked about the Cooperative as well as its operation of a wind to energy generation farm.

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative provides wholesale electric service to 16 electric distribution cooperatives who serve 260,000 member-consumers in 24 percent of Texas which includes the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau regions as well as the Oklahoma Panhandle and Southwestern Kansas.

The West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (WTASWCDs) met August 25, 2011, at the Heritage Museum of Big Spring. Before hearing updates on congressional and state legislation, SWCD Directors attending the meeting toured the historic "Settles Hotel" which was opened in 1930. Located in downtown Big Spring, the hotel is being restored with restoration expected to be completed in January 2012.

During the organization's business meeting, SWCD Directors heard dignitaries from the TSSWCB, Association of Texas SWCDs and the USDA-NRCS talk about current state and national conservation issues.

Miscellaneous

San Angelo, TX will host the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM). The Texas Section of SRM is a professional society and conservation organization whose members are concerned with studying conserving managing and sustaining the varied resources of the rangelands in Texas.

The theme for the annual meeting is, "Rangeland Stewardship: A History of Heritage, A Future of Change." The meeting will be held at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo on October 12-14, 2011. Sessions will include technical papers, young professional presentations, agriculture updates, Farm Bill programs, wind energy, media uses, etc.

Conservation Video Library

About the Library

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2011 catalog can be downloaded at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/infoed/videolibrary. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow videos from the library.

Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Mel Davis at mdavis@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out. The Association of Texas SWCDs will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993 and has certified over 14,000 plans. The TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution and allocates funding to those areas to serve as financial

incentives to increase participation in the program. More information about the WQMP Program is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp.

The TSWCB has certified 324 new water quality management plans to date during the 2011 fiscal year.

FY2012 allocations of financial incentive funding for priority SWCDs was approved by the State Board in July 2011. The deadline for obligating FY2012 funds is April 30, 2012.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Program Overview

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a WQMP certified by the TSSWCB.

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the siting and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. An odor control plan may be required for those farms. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage.

Program Activities

TSSWCB continues to conduct inspections of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, staff continues to review and update existing WQMPs and develop plans for newly constructed farms.

For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry or contact the Poultry Program Office at (936) 462-7020.

WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Program Overview

Recognizing the importance of water conservation in meeting our future demand, the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, via the passage of Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4, directed the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to appoint the members of the newly created Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC). The WCAC was created to provide the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Legislature, TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), political subdivisions, and the public with the resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation.

According to the legislation, the WCAC is composed of 23 members appointed by the TWDB. At their August 27, 2007 meeting, the TWDB appointed one member to represent each of the 23 entities or interest groups. The TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the WCAC.

Duties of the WCAC include:

- Monitoring trends in water conservation implementation and new technologies for possible inclusion as BMPs
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and developing and implementing a state water management resource library
- Developing and implementing a public recognition program for water conservation
- Monitoring the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Monitoring target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the TWDB and TCEQ
- Evaluating the desirability of requiring certification of water conservation training facilities, entities, and programs that provide assistance to retail public utilities in developing water conservation plans

Recent Activities

The WCAC met in Austin on June 08, 2011. Richard Egg was nominated and accepted the position of chair of the council's agricultural workgroup.

Upcoming Activities

The agricultural workgroup, over the next biennium, will be reviewing the state's agricultural water conservation BMPs that were developed by the Water Conservation Task Force (2003-2005). The workgroup will determine if each BMP is still appropriate as is, or if it needs updating or removal. The agricultural workgroup will also review current methods of reporting irrigation water use (e.g., gal/ac, gal/ton) to evaluate if current methods are appropriate, or if more efficient methods should be developed and used.

The WCAC has developed water conservation awards in three categories: agricultural, municipal, and industrial. The agricultural water conservation award will be available to farmers and ranchers. If you know of someone who has effectively integrated water conservation into his or her operation, consider nominating him or her for a water conservation award. The nomination packet for agricultural water conservation award is currently being developed and will be distributed shortly. The deadline for nominations is November 2, 2011.

The workgroups do not make any decisions, but make recommendations to the WCAC for any required decisions. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to participate as members of the various workgroups. If anyone is interested in becoming a workgroup member, please contact Richard Egg at (254) 773-2250 ext. 246 or regg@tsswcb.state.tx.us.
The next WCAC meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011, at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Field Office in Austin.

More information on the WCAC is available at http://www.savetexaswater.org/.

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The *Texas NPS Management Program* utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, voluntary, financial, and technical assistance approaches to achieve a balanced program. NPS pollution is managed through assessment, planning, implementation, and education. The TCEQ and TSSWCB have established goals and objectives for guiding and tracking the progress of NPS management in Texas. Success in achieving the goals and objectives are reported annually in the *Annual Report on Managing NPS Water Pollution in Texas*, which is submitted to EPA in accordance with the CWA.

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program*, including the *2010 Annual Report*, is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram.

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs and functions administered by and/or coordinated through the TSSWCB Statewide Resource Management (SRM) group that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

Watershed Approach
Protecting the State's rivers, streams, lakes, bays, and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses a Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:

- Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;
- Water quality objectives based on scientific data;
- Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and,
- Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs) and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in those watersheds where agricultural and/or silvicultural NPS pollution is contributing to a water quality impairment or concern to an extent which TSSWCB believes is sufficient to justify expenditure of agency resources. A list of these watersheds, including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds, is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are provided in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The NPS Grant Program is administered by the TSSWCB for the purpose of providing funding as grants to cooperating entities for activities that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress (through the EPA) provide funding to the TSSWCB to administer the agricultural and silvicultural components of the *Texas NPS Management Program* through the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this NPS Grant Program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding

Background
Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided annually through the EPA to States for the implementation of each State's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB. Over the past several years, the State's allocation has been approximately $9 million.

FY2005 – FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Status
There are currently 46 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 46 on-going projects total approximately $13.9 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various targeted educational programs; develop and implement WPPs; and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

FY2011 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status
TSSWCB received 26 proposals requesting a total of $10,877,077 in federal funds during last fall's public request for proposals. Of those 26 proposals, 8 were selected for funding.

On May 19, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff was notified that EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer had published EPA's FY2011 operating budget based on the final Congressional budget approved in April 2011. EPA ultimately shifted $25 million out of the Congressionally-approved national CWA §319(h) allocation (~$200 million) to other EPA program areas. This effectively reduces TSSWCB's FY2011 CWA §319(h) allocation by over 13% from FY2010 levels.

On June 1, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff was informed that EPA Region 6 was going to utilize special project funding to make up for the State's 13% funding reduction and restore the FY2011 allocation to FY2010 levels. TSSWCB's FY2011 CWA 319 allocation from EPA is $4,578,700. TSSWCB submitted the FY2011 §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 1, 2011.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background
The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated general revenue funds to the TSSWCB for the purpose of planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution in impaired watersheds; the 81st Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation.

The State Board has approved operating budgets for FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011 that allocated a total of $3.79 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. On September 17, 2009, the Board approved a revised *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs and Watershed Planning, Assessment, and Implementation Activities* which provides guidance to SRM staff on directing these state appropriations for the NPS Grant Program. This *Policy* is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#StateGR.

FY2009 – FY2011 State General Revenue Grant Status
There are currently 8 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 8 on-going projects total approximately $2 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAs); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Background
The CWA requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams, and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the *Texas 303(d) List* and must be submitted to the EPA for review and approval every two years.

The State must then establish a TMDL for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The TMDL allocates pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

Based on the environmental target of the TMDL an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody, and remove it from the *303(d) List*. EPA must approve the TMDL, but the I-Plan only requires State approval. TSSWCB shares responsibility with the

TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs.

More information on TMDLs is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Watershed Protection Plan Program

Background
Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are locally-driven mechanisms for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the watershed planning process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed.

WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community, promote a unified approach to seeking funding for implementation, and create a coordinated public education program. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable which achieve environmental goals for water resources. Adaptive management is used to modify the WPP based on an on-going science-based process that incorporates new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. EPA requires certain expenditures through CWA §319(h) grants to be in accordance with a WPP. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water quality issues related to urban NPS pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies other than TSSWCB or TCEQ.

More information on WPPs is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

Background
The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

The CCC is charged with adopting uniform goals and policies to guide decision-making by all entities regulating or managing natural resource use within the Texas coastal area. The CCC reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the CCC oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.
The federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217 requires each State with an approved CMP to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ hold primary

responsibility for the development and implementation of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*.

More information on the CMP is available at http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html.

Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program

Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*. NOAA identified five areas the State must strengthen or correct; the agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions. Texas had five years to meet the remaining conditions to gain full approval. States that fail to submit an adequate program (full approval) face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds, including CWA §319(h) NPS grant monies.

In July 2008, the CCC again responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully-approved program. However, in May 2009, GLO received comments from NOAA and EPA which concluded that enough progress had been made to lift only one of the conditions. TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA that describes the State's approach to address the remaining conditional approval findings.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

The CCC was reviewed by the Sunset Advisory Commission this biennium. Sunset legislation (SB656) has been signed by the Governor. The act abolishes the CCC and transfers its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation also requires establishment of a Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the CMP. This Advisory Committee includes a representative of the TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board. The act takes effect September 1, 2011.

TSSWCB staff met with GLO staff on August 10, 2011 to discuss the new administration of the coastal program. The general structure will be work groups from the agencies and governor appointees to focus on specific projects, modeled on the grants workgroup. The main function of the Advisory Committee will be to provide consistency review of federal projects and actions, and to provide support to the work groups.

More information on the CCC is available for a limited time at http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/ccc-meetings.html.

CMP Grant Program

Application information for Grant Cycle 17 was distributed in April 2011. The CCC expects to award approximately $1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects during Grant Cycle 17. The deadline for pre-proposals was June 22, 2011. The full application is due October 12, 2011.

The CCC will accept applications for both construction and non-construction projects that address any of the following funding categories:

- Coastal Natural Hazards Response
- Critical Areas Enhancements
- Shoreline Access
- Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development
- Permit Streamlining/Assistance, Governmental Coordination, and Local Government Planning Assistance
- Water Sediment Quantity and Quality Improvements

More information on the CMP grant program can be found at http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html.

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Background
Established by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) bridges the gap between State groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies, and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the TGPC.
The Texas Water Code sets non-degradation of the State's groundwater resources as the goal for all State programs and asserts that groundwater is kept reasonably free of contaminants that interfere with its present and potential uses. The TGPC implements the State's groundwater protection policy which:

- Requires that pollution discharges, waste disposal and other regulated activities not harm public health or impair current or potential groundwater use;
- Recognizes the variability between aquifers;
- Acknowledges the importance of water quality;
- Balances the protection of the environment and the long-term economic health of the state; and,
- Recognizes the use of the best professional judgment of the responsible state agencies to implement the policy.

The TGPC met on July 20, 2011 in Austin.

More information on the TGPC is available at http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

Coordination with EPA
On August 2-4, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [David Reeves, Ashley Alexander, Jana Baker] attended the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Quality Assurance (QA) Training at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Austin, TX. Participants included organizations that receive funding from the EPA who are required to meet quality assurance standards associated with the EPA's Quality Assurance Program. Attendees learned the value of the program and understood the linkage between Quality Management Plans (QMPs) and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP). The TSSWCB staff in attendance were taught about the elements of a QAPP and what is required of the plan in order to receive approval from the EPA. The tools and knowledge gained by TSSWCB staff at the training ensure that the results gathered from federally funded projects will satisfy the environmental data needs.

Coordination with TCEQ
On September 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB SRM staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#moa.

Surface Water Quality Standards Revision
On June 30, 2010, the TCEQ adopted major revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194* (IPs). These major revisions to the Standards include the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs and significant modifications to contact recreation use and associated bacteria criteria. The adopted Standards became effective as a State rule on July 22, 2010. TCEQ submitted the revised Standards and IPs to EPA on August 4, 2010. EPA must now take action to approve these changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

On June 29, 2011, EPA notified TCEQ of action taken on the water quality standards revisions. EPA approved the changes to recreation use and bacteria criteria. However, the high flow exemption was disapproved.

More information on the revisions to the Standards is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html.

New Watershed Action Planning Process
TCEQ staff has been working to develop a document that describes a new Watershed Action Planning approach to the State's water quality management programs.

The document will illustrate Watershed Action Planning and describe the approach including an overview of the state water quality planning programs, the role of stakeholders, and the options available to address water quality impairments. The Watershed Action Planning process recognizes a range of tools and options for addressing impaired waterbodies on the *303(d) List*. The Watershed Action Planning process provides for a stakeholder-led evaluation of watershed-specific circumstances and a deliberative and collective decision as to what tool to apply to move forward with addressing the listing.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information gathered during the Watershed Action Planning process, such as the waterbody, the impairment or priority interest, the date it was first listed on the *303(d) List*, the management strategy to address the impairment (e.g., UAA, TMDL, WPP), the timeline for completing the management strategy, the responsible agency, and interim performance measures.

Watershed Action Planning will increase the transparency of the State's water quality management programs by presenting the list of impaired waters in such a manner as to communicate activities and intentions collectively to the public at large. Watershed Action Planning is key to providing for the collaboration being called for and the coordination necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texan.

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses
The recently adopted revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards establish a four tier approach to recreation use including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody (i.e., primary contact) to any of the other 3 tiers and the associated bacteria criterion, a recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) must be completed for each waterbody and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA.

The purpose of an RUAA is to ascertain the actual recreation occurring on a waterbody, establish or verify a presumed use, and, if necessary, assign a more appropriate use. During an RUAA information is collected on water recreation activities, stream flow type, and stream depth; additionally, interviews from users who are present during surveys and those familiar with the waterbody are conducted and a review of historical information is completed. If the results of the RUAA indicate that a different, more appropriate use is warranted, the resulting change in the associated bacteria criterion may result in the waterbody no longer being identified on the *303(d) List* as impaired, thus negating the need to adopt a TMDL.

The TCEQ is in the process of conducting RUAAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another 12 waterbodies. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. After the RUAAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders regarding potential site-specific revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards for each waterbody.

Summaries of RUAA activities on waterbodies where TMDLs and/or WPPs are also on-going are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

More information on RUAAs is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/wq_assessment/standards/ruaas/index. These RUAAs affect livestock operations in scores of watersheds across the state.

On August 23, 2011, TCEQ hosted a public meeting regarding the Upper Sabine River Basin RUAA project in Sulphur Springs. At this meeting, TCEQ and their contractors presented preliminary findings from the field surveys. This RUAA focuses on Grace Creek (segment 0505B), South Fork of Sabine River (segment 0507G), Running Creek (segment 0512A), and Elm Creek (segment 0512B).

More information is available at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/multisabine05. This RUAA project affects livestock operations and other landowners in watersheds in Gregg, Hopkins, Hunt, and Rains Counties.

The TCEQ is soliciting public comment on the RUAA Report for the Atascosa River project. The 30-day public comment period ends August 30, 2011. The Report provides substantial detail on the results which were discussed at the recent public meeting. The report is available at www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/atascosa2107.

The TCEQ is soliciting public comment on the RUAA Report for the Upper Oyster Creek project. The 30-day public comment period ends September 6, 2011. The report provides substantial detail on the results which were discussed at the recent public meeting. The report is available at www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/upperoysterbullhead1245.

Texas Clean Rivers Program
The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins, plus bays and estuaries, in Texas.

Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions.

The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB.

The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Integrated Report*.

More information on CRP is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html.

On July 27, 2011, the Sulphur River Basin Authority hosted a Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee meeting in Texarkana. Discussion focused on the *2010 Basin Highlights Report*, which summarizes the current water quality conditions throughout the basin and planned monitoring for FY2012. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a report on Lake Wright Patman. More information is available at http://www.sulphurr.org/.

San Antonio Bay Estuary Program
On August 9, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a meeting on a Wetland Inventory for San Antonio Bay in Victoria. This project is part of the ongoing study of San Antonio Bay to develop a comprehensive management plan for the bay. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) is performing the study, which includes site inventory for protection, restoration, and enhancement of coastal habitats around the bay. Many sites have been identified as critical wetland habitat to preserve, restore, and/or protect in the bay system. The highest priority area identified is in the Guadalupe Delta. Other sites that have been identified are oyster reefs, rookery islands, spoil islands and various flats in the bay system. TAMUCC has now completed the work, and the

materials are available through the university and the San Antonio Bay Partnership.

On August 24, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended the Port Lavaca Chamber of Commerce Luncheon for a presentation on the San Antonio Bay Foundation (SABF). The SABF is a non-profit group founded in 2008 by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority focused on protecting the San Antonio Bay. The presentation was focused on the background behind the foundation and it included goals set by the group.

More information is available at http://www.sabaypartnership.org/. The development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for San Antonio Bay has the potential to affect agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to the San Antonio Bay complex in Aransas, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria Counties.

City of Temple Annual Stormwater Stakeholder Meeting

On July 28, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Jana Baker, Ashley Alexander] attended the 2011 Stormwater Stakeholders Committee Annual Meeting for the City of Temple in Temple. The objective of the Stormwater Management Program is to develop a program to which the City of Temple can reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff. A presentation with an overview of the City of Temple's Stormwater Management Program was given along with BMP highlights for year four of the five year plan. The City of Temple has utilized 34 BMP's in six categories of practices, including; public education, public involvement, illicit discharge, construction, post-construction, and good housekeeping. Future plans for year five of the Stormwater Management Program include: NPS model demonstrations for Temple ISD, a storm drain marking event and dry weather screening. More information is available at http://www.ci.temple.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=1194.

Stakeholder Facilitation Training

On July 26, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Baker, Aaron Wendt, Ashley Alexander, and Brian Koch] attended the Stakeholder Facilitation Training in Austin. This workshop highlighted tools that are used to effectively identify, engage, and involve stakeholders throughout a watershed to restore and maintain healthy environmental conditions. Some key concepts of the training were identifying driving forces, forming stakeholder groups and how to get them to the table, dealing with conflict and making decisions using a consensus-based approach.

Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable

On July 27, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Aaron Wendt, Mitch Conine, David Reeves, Loren Warrick, Brian Koch], in collaboration with TCEQ and TWRI, hosted the sixth Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in Austin at the Lower Colorado River Authority's Dalchau Service Center. Over 100 people attended representing most of the on-going watershed planning efforts across the state. The theme presented at the roundtable was 'Bacteria Dynamics, Assessment Methods, and BMPs'. There were many topics that were covered at the workshop though which included: environmental effects on bacterial survival and growth; and the effect of management and land use on bacterial concentration and loading. Several TSSWCB projects were highlighted such as: *Fate and Transport of E.coli in Rural Texas Landscapes and Streams, Support Analytical Infrastructure and Further Development of a Statewide Bacterial Source Tracking Library*, and *Evaluation and Demonstration of BMPs for Cattle on Grazing Lands for the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program*.

The primary purpose of the Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable is to provide a forum for continuing dialogue between watershed coordinators in order to facilitate interactive solutions to common issues being faced statewide affecting the development and implementation of WPPs. More information is available at http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/developing/guidance/roundtable.

Coordination with the USGS

On August 23, TSSWCB SRM staff [David Reeves, Aaron Wendt, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Jana Baker, Richard Egg, Brian Koch, Rusty Ray & John Foster] attended a demonstration by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) of the Spatially

Referenced Regressions On Watershed attributes (SPARROW) model at the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) in Temple, TX. USGS staff described a watershed modeling technique for relating water-quality measurements made at monitoring stations to specific characteristics of a watershed (contaminant sources and environmental factors) that affect rates of delivery to streams. The model estimates contaminant concentrations, fluxes and yields in streams and evaluates the contributions of selected contaminant sources and watershed properties that control the pollutants transport. TSSWCB staff will be able to use this model to guide the planning of future monitoring plans by identifying the nutrient contributions to streams from pollution sources and upstream drainages. The model will also help stakeholders understand the spatial differences in pollution sources and the environmental and hydrologic processes that control their transport downstream.

On August 23, SRM staff [David Reeves, Aaron Wendt, Mitch Conine, Rusty Ray, Richard Egg & John Foster] attended a presentation by the USGS of the Guadalupe Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP) Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Model at the TSSWCB in Temple. The TPWD Ecological System Dataset was used in conjunction with land cover data to find the location of brush, such as Ash Juniper, and simulated the additional water that would become available if hydrophilic species were replaced with native grasses. For each subwatershed, the model was able to predict the accumulated runoff and its total contribution to Canyon Lake. The WSEP program will benefit from this model by knowing the amount of water that has become available for each acre of brush that was cleared. The model will calculate water yields, which will be reported as a performance measure.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- August 30, 2011 – Cedar Bayou Texas Watershed Steward Workshop (Baytown)
- August 30, 2011 – Highland Bayou Watershed Protection Plan Meeting (La Marque)
- August 30, 2011 – San Antonio River Authority CRP Meeting (Karnes City)
- August 30, 2011 – San Antonio Bay Partnership Subcommittee Meeting (Victoria)
- August 31, 2011 – Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (Austin)
- September 1, 2011 – Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- September 6, 2011 – Houston-Galveston Area Council CRP Regional Monitoring Workgroup (Houston)
- September 9, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee NPS Taskforce (Austin)
- September 14, 2011 – Texas Cattle Feeders Association Field Day (Deaf Smith County)
- September 15, 2011 Lampasas River Steering Committee Meeting (Lampasas)
- September 19, 2011- Paso del Norte Watershed Council (Las Cruces, NM)
- September 20, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee- Public Outreach & Education (Austin)
- September 21, 2011 – NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee (Austin)
- September 22, 2011 – San Antonio Bay Partnership Meeting (Victoria)
- September 22, 2011 – Attoyac Bayou Stakeholder Meeting (Nacogdoches)
- September 28, 2011 – Leona River Texas Watershed Stewards Workshop (Uvalde)
- September 29 - October 1, 2011 – Texas Stream Team- Meeting of the Monitors (Clear Lake)

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of WPPs and TMDLs. A list of watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds; more detailed information on all watersheds described below is available at this website.

Adams and Cow Bayous
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

On August 25, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a stakeholder meeting for the Adams and Cow Bayous TMDL I-plan in Orange. This meeting was focused on development of the I-plan, with the sections on wastewater treatment facilities and onsite sewage facilities (OSSF) being the focus, and the attempt to lump the rest of the sources into a WPP document.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html. These TMDLs affect livestock and forestry operations in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

Atascosa River
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 2, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] and field staff [Adrian Perez] attended a public meeting regarding the Atascosa River UAA projects in Pleasanton. At this meeting, TCEQ and their contractors presented preliminary findings from the Recreational UAA and the Aquatic Life UAA. These two UAAs are being conducted to examine the appropriateness of the water quality standards related to bacteria and dissolved oxygen for this waterbody. The RUAA field surveys were conducted in 2009 and 2010. During these field surveys at the more than 35 sites along the river, no primary contact recreation activities (e.g., swimming) were observed and only at a few sites were secondary contact recreation activities (e.g., fishing) observed. Interviews conducted with landowners and others revealed more extensive use for secondary contact recreation and very limited historic primary contact recreation at only a couple of sites. For the Aquatic Life UAA, field surveys were conducted in 2010 and 2011 to assess the health of the aquatic community by examining diurnal dissolved oxygen profiles and the population of fish and macroinvertebrates at sites along the entire river; previous data collection had only focused on a small portion of the river. The Atascosa County SWCD #307 provided information on available technical assistance, provided through a CWA §319(h) grant to the SWCD from TSSWCB, to help livestock producers develop and implement WQMPs. Additionally, the SWCD discussed the availability of financial assistance through the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program State Resource Concern for Water Quality in South Central Texas.

The TCEQ is soliciting public comment on the RUAA Report for the Atascosa River project. The 30-day public comment period ends August 30, 2011. The Report provides substantial detail on the results which were discussed at the recent public meeting. The report is available at www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/atascosa2107.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-atascosa.html. This project affects livestock operations in the Atascosa River watershed in Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina and Wilson Counties.

Brady Creek
Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On July 28, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and field staff [Kendria Ray] attended the Brady Creek WPP stakeholder meeting. The discussions focused on current water quality data and the computer based modeling that was used in the watershed. Project personnel also updated the stakeholders on an investigation that is ongoing regarding illegal dumping.

More information is available at http://www.ucratx.org/NPSBrady.html. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Brady Creek watershed in McCulloch, Concho, San Saba and Menard Counties.

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, UAA
Lead: TCEQ, TSSWCB

On August 17, 2011 TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and field staff [Adrian Perez] attended the Bee SWCD #344 meeting to discuss with the board the Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) that is starting in Aransas Creek. The board was informed of what an RUAA is and the process to try to document the amount of recreation that occurs in the waterbody.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/42-copano.html and http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/aransaruaa. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers watershed in Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, Aransas and San Patricio Counties.

Dickinson Bayou
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 24, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership meeting in Dickinson. This meeting was held to update the partnership on the bacteria TMDL and I-plan. Once the TMDL is approved, it will be incorporated into the existing WPP, and the I-plan will be completed and submitted for approval.

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the bacteria TMDL and the RUAA is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/80-dickinsonbayoubacteria.html and more information on the dissolved oxygen TMDL is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/17-dickinson.html. More information on the WPP is available at http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/. Both the WPP and the TMDLs will affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Lake Granbury
Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On August 23, 2011, the Brazos River Authority hosted a Lake Granbury Watershed Stakeholder Group meeting in Granbury. At this meeting, BRA discussed modifications made to the WPP document in order to resolve issues raised by EPA during their review. After these modifications were made this past spring, EPA concluded in April that the Lake Granbury WPP fully satisfies all of the elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. BRA distributed copies of the WPP to stakeholders at this meeting. Additionally, the group revisited appointments to the Executive Committee which is the decision-making body for the development and implementation of this WPP. Finally, BRA discussed the recently awarded grant to begin implementation of the Lake Granbury WPP; this grant will provide for educational programming and a Watershed Coordinator.

Lake Houston
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On April 6, 2011, TCEQ adopted as final *Fifteen TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria in Watersheds Upstream of Lake Houston (Segments 1004E, 1008, 1008H, 1009, 1009C, 1009D, 1009E, 1010, and 1011)*. These TMDLs allocate maximum pollutant

loadings of bacteria between point sources and nonpoint sources in order to achieve the water quality criterion, and effectively necessitate a 41-81% overall annual load reduction (depending on the particular waterbody) to restore attainment of primary contact recreation use. For each of these TMDLs, TCEQ selected the highest flow condition as the critical period which necessitates an 81-96% reduction (depending on the particular waterbody) during these wet-weather events in order to achieve the overall annual reduction. These TMDLs must be approved by EPA before they are effective.

On August 11, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Ashley Alexander] attended an OSSF Training put on by the Houston-Galveston Area Council in Spring. The training covered how to visually inspect three types of OSSFs including conventional, low-pressure dosing and aerobic treatment unit septic facilities. OSSF basics, system components, inspections, and permits were discussed. The importance of OSSF maintenance was stressed as a key factor in preventing failure of these systems. After the presentations, we dispersed to Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens where we were able to view an OSSF using an aerobic treatment unit.

On August 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Bacteria Implementation Group meeting in Houston. This meeting was the final meeting held for development of the I-plan. The steering committee signed the document in approval after 36 months of development. The plan will now be submitted to TCEQ for approval, and full implementation will begin. The BIG will now meet twice a year to update on implementation activities, and after 5 years they will meet to re-assess the progress and see where improvements to the plan are needed.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx. More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html. These TMDLs affect livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

Leon River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, UAA
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL, UAA), TSSWCB (WPP)

On August 4, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] attended a Leon River Working Committee meeting in Hamilton. The draft WPP was released for public comment earlier this year. At this meeting, the Committee discussed comments received from the public and how to revise the WPP based on those comments. The Brazos River Authority will make final revisions to the WPP document based on the Committee's direction and submit the WPP to the TSSWCB and USEPA for review.

More information on the postponed bacteria TMDL is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-leonbacteria.html. More information on the WPP is available at http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp. Both the WPP and the TMDL affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

Leona River

Impairment: Bacteria
Concern: Nutrients
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

On July 28, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Loren Warrick] and Field Representative [Kendria Ray] attended a Leona River Water Quality Assessment and Planning meeting in Uvalde. The meeting began with introducing the project partners by TSSWCB. The Texas Institute Applied for Environmental Research and Texas AgriLife Research introduced meeting attendees to water quality monitoring, load duration curves, spatially explicit load enrichment calculation tool, and bacterial source tracking.

More information is available at http://www.leonariver.org/. This project affects livestock operations in the Frio, Uvalde, and Zavala Counties.

Pecan Bayou
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: UAA
Lead: TSSWCB

On August 10, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Loren Warrick] and Field Representative [Charlie Upchurch] attended a Mid-Pecan Bayou RUAA meeting in Brownwood. The meeting began with introductions and an update on the RUAA by Texas AgriLife Research. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research presented their initial findings of their first field survey and bacteria source survey findings. The meeting concluded with a wrap up and next steps for the project.

More information is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#pecanbayou. This project affects livestock operations in portions of the Pecan Bayou watershed in Brown County.

Pecos River
Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Concern: Salinity
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On August 2-3, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and field staff [Kendria Ray, Ben Wilde] attended public meetings in Imperial, Iraan, Ozona, and Pecos. Project personnel presented components of the Pecos River WPP that are currently being implemented by landowners. Through implementation funding provided by the TSSWCB with a CWA §319(h) grant, the Crockett SWCD #235 and the Upper Pecos SWCD #213 have hired technicians to support chemical saltcedar treatments along the riparian corridor of the Pecos River and to encourage landowners to voluntarily implement recommended BMPs on their land. Technical assistance and financial incentives will be provided to landowners to develop and implement WQMPs to reduce nutrient and sediment loss and consequently affect dissolved oxygen levels. Biological control of saltcedar will be promoted in areas where chemical treatment is either impractical or where landowners opt out. New continuous water quality monitoring stations were recently installed near Girvin and just north of the Texas-New Mexico state line.

More information is available at http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Pecos River watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

Plum Creek
Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On August 11, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Baker, Aaron Wendt, Brian Koch, Rusty Ray] attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lockhart. Discussion centered on the Partnership's long-term sustainability meetings with cities, counties, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, and the Plum Creek Conservation District. Updates were given on the Hillside Terrace Wastewater Project, the City of Lockhart's CWA §319(h) Implementation Grant, as well as, active implementation projects such as the City of Kyle's urban NPS project, Plum Creek Feral Hog Education, and implementation of agricultural BMPs. The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership is implementing components of the Plum Creek WPP in an effort to restore water quality within the Plum Creek watershed. An update was given on Water Quality Monitoring data for Plum Creek Watershed as well.

More information is available at http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Plum Creek watershed in Caldwell and Hays Counties.

San Bernard River
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 18, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a stakeholder meeting for the San Bernard River WPP in West Columbia. This meeting was held to update stakeholders on the progress of the WPP. The modeling contract has been extended through October 2011, and the contractor will be using the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) to model *E. Coli* in the non-tidal portions of the watershed and Tidal Prism for the tidal portion of the watershed. So far, flow data, SWQM data, rainfall, and other components required for modeling have been collected. The WPP is expected to be ready for EPA review by November 2011.

More information is available at http://www.h-gac.com/go/sanbernard. This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

Upper Oyster Creek
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 23, 2011 an Upper Oyster Creek I-plan meeting was held in Sugarland. This meeting focused on implementation of BMPs for low DO. Upper Oyster Creek is also impaired for bacteria, and the I-plan is being developed for bacteria and DO.

The TCEQ is soliciting public comment on the RUAA Report for the Upper Oyster Creek project. The 30-day public comment period ends September 6, 2011. The report provides substantial detail on the results which were discussed at the recent public meeting. The report is available at www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/upperoysterbullhead1245.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/25-oystercreek.html. These TMDLs have limited affect on farming and livestock operations in the Upper Oyster Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources in selected aquifers, streams, and reservoirs through the selective control of brush species. The 81st Texas Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing $4,503,641 in General Revenue Funds in FY2011.

These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the TSSWCB. Since the beginning of the program in 1999, there has been over 741,000 acres of brush treated in priority watersheds throughout the state.

The following SWCDs were provided Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program Certifications and/or Contracts:

Area 2 Districts
- Middle Concho SWCD
- Eldorado-Divide SWCD
- Tom Green SWCD
- Pedernales SWCD
- Gillespie County SWCD
- Kerr County SWCD
- Kendall SWCD

Area 3 Districts
- McMullen County SWCD
- LaSalle County SWCD
- Caldwell-Travis SWCD
- Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
- Webb SWCD
- Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts
- Archer County SWCD

- Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
- Pecan Bayou SWCD
- Bosque SWCD
- Little Wichita SWCD

Currently the Water Supply Enhancement Program is administrating 14 projects throughout the state. Listed below are the projects and the project's contact person:

- Twin Buttes Reservoir – Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher Reservoir – Tuffy Wood
- Pedernales River – Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River – Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer (Bandera County) – Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir – Cody York
- Nueces River – Adrian Perez
- Frio River – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Tuffy Wood
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer – Tuffy Wood
- Palo Pinto Reservoir – Cody York
- Bosque River – Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties) – Cody York
- Lake Brownwood – Cody York

Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River, Kendall and Blanco Counties with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo and Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assist the Frio and Nueces Projects with contracts and certifications
- Coordinating meetings in Frio, Nueces, and Twin Buttes to begin application on Projects
- Evaluate new rules and recommendation for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Program Overview

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within Texas. The primary purpose of the structures is to protect lives and property by reducing the velocity of floodwaters, and thereby releasing flows at a safer rate. A secondary benefit is the reduction of nonpoint source pollutants (e.g., sediment) in floodwater downstream. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by USDA-NRCS. They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government would provide the technical design expertise and the funding to construct them, and then units of local government would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. SWCDs are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and water control and improvement districts.

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over the amount of needed O&M and structural repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our states' infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated $15 million dollars to the TSSWCB for grants to local SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

More information on these Flood Control Programs is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/floodcontrol.

O&M Grant Program

The following table is a summary of the Flood Control O&M Program for FY2010 and FY2011 as of August 23, 2011.

FY2010 Contracted $555,129		FY2011 Allocation $2,472,009	
Original O&M	Original Admin	Original O&M	Original Admin
$528,653	$26,477	$2,354,636	$117,373
Spent O&M	Spent Admin	Spent O&M	Spent Admin
$500,877	$23,569	$1,793,207	$88,959
Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin	Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin
$29,180	$1,459	$561,429	$28,414
Total FY2010 Remaining $30,639		Total FY2011 Remaining $589,843	

Structural Repair Grant Program

TSSWCB staff conducted a ranking exercise and began contract negotiations with dam sponsors representing the highest ranking applications. A total of 6 flood control dams will receive state grant funding for FY2011. These 6 dams are receiving state grant funds representing 95% of the total cost of each project. In total, $2,393,166.47 of FY 2011 state repair grant funds have been obligated.

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at: http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/floodcontrol

Monthly Program News and Activities is published by the TSSWCB for use by Texas SWCD Directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please call (254) 773-2250.

4311 SOUTH 31ST STREET, SUITE 125
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502
(254) 773-2250
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us

Established in 1939, the TSSWCB administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers through the State's 216 individual SWCDs. The agency is governed by a seven-member State Board composed of two Governor appointees and five individuals elected from across Texas by 1,080 Directors of local SWCDs. The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of brush species in areas in need of water conservation; provides operation, maintenance, and structural repair grant funds to local government sponsors of the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams; and, facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.